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REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3-16 are pending in the application. Claims 5, 7, 11, and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e). Claims 1, 3, 6, 8-10, 12, and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

Amendment to the Specification

Applicant proposes to amend the specification to clarify the meaning of the terms "TCAP", "UNI 3.1/4.0" and "BICC".

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1, 3, 6, 8-10, 12, and 13 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Number 6,515,985 issued to Shmulevich et al. on February 4, 2003 in view of U.S. Patent Number 6,282,194 issued to Cheesman et al. on August 28, 2001.

Applicant has avoided this ground of rejection for the following reasons.

Applicant asserts that even if it were proper to combine the cited references, the resulting combination would not make obvious applicant's claims. This is because neither Shmulevich nor Cheesman teach or suggest applicant's claim 1 limitation, as amended, that recites, "<u>wherein the virtual tandem switch supports protocols selected from the group consisting of ISUP, Primary Rate Interface (PRI), and Transaction Capabilities Application Part (TCAP), ATM UNI 3.1/4.0, Internet Protocol Device Control (IPDC), IPDC+, Media Gateway Control Protocol (MGCP), H.248, ISUP+, and bearer independent call control (BICC)</u>."

Applicant agrees that Shmulevich discloses protocols such as Signaling System 7, ISUP, TCAP, MGCP, and H.248. However, contrary to applicant's claim 1, Shmulevich does <u>not</u> disclose bearer independent call control (BICC), Primary Rate Interface (PRI) and Internet Protocol Device Control (IPDC) protocols. Thus, Shmulevich is missing the protocols from applicant's claim 1 limitation.

Cheesman does not cure the deficiency noted above for Shmulevich. Instead, Cheesman discloses the use of Signaling System 7, TCAP and ISUP protocols. Cheesman, similar to Shmulevich, makes no mention of bearer independent call control (BICC), Primary Rate Interface (PRI) and Internet Protocol Device Control (IPDC) protocols, as recited in applicant's claim 1.

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Therefore the combination of Shmulevich with Cheesman does not teach or suggest all of the limitations in applicant's claim 1, and therefore claim 1 is allowable over the proposed combination.

Since claims 3 and 9-10 depend from claim 1, these dependent claims are also allowable over the proposed combination.

Independent claims 5 and 11 each have a limitation similar to that of independent claim 1, which was shown is not taught by the combination of Shmulevich with Cheesman. For example, claim 5 recites, "wherein the switch supports protocols selected from the group consisting of ISUP, Primary Rate Interface (PRI), and Transaction Capabilities Application Part (TCAP), ATM UNI 3.1/4.0, Internet Protocol Device Control (IPDC), IPDC+, Media Gateway Control Protocol (MGCP), H.248, ISUP+, and bearer independent call control (BICC)" and claim 11 recites, "wherein the gateway supports protocols selected from the group consisting of ISUP, Primary Rate Interface (PRI), and Transaction Capabilities Application Part (TCAP), ATM UNI 3.1/4.0, Internet Protocol Device Control (IPDC), IPDC+, Media Gateway Control Protocol (MGCP), H.248, ISUP+, and bearer independent call control (BICC)." The combination of Shmulevich with Cheesman does not teach these limitations for the above-mentioned reasons. Therefore, claims 5 and 11 are likewise allowable over the proposed combination. Since claims 6 and 8 depend from claim 5 and claims 12-13 depend from claim 11, these dependent claims are also allowable over the proposed combination.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

Claims 5, 7, 11, and 14 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Number 6,515,985 issued to Shmulevich et al. on February 4, 2003.

Applicant has avoided this ground of rejection for the following reasons.

As noted hereinabove, Shmulevich does not teach or suggest the limitations, "wherein the switch supports protocols selected from the group consisting of ISUP, Primary Rate Interface (PRI), and Transaction Capabilities Application Part (TCAP), ATM UNI 3.1/4.0, Internet Protocol Device Control (IPDC), IPDC+, Media Gateway Control Protocol (MGCP), H.248, ISUP+, and bearer independent call control (BICC)", as recited in applicant's independent claim 5 and "wherein the gateway supports protocols selected from the group consisting of ISUP, Primary Rate Interface (PRI), and Transaction Capabilities Application Part (TCAP), ATM UNI

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3.1/4.0, Internet Protocol Device Control (IPDC), IPDC+, Media Gateway Control Protocol (MGCP), H.248, ISUP+, and bearer independent call control (BICC)", as recited in applicant's independent claim 11. Thus, Shmulevich does not describe each and every element of claims 5 and 11, and therefore claims 5 and 11 are not anticipated by Shmulevich. Since claim 7 depends from claim 5, and claim 14 depends from claim 11, these claims are also allowable over Shmulevich.

New Claims

New claims 15 and 16 been added. Claim 15 includes a limitation directed to the types of wireless air interfaces supported by applicant's claimed invention. Claim 16 includes a limitation directed to a capability of the virtual tandem switch. No new matter has been added.

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Conclusion

It is respectfully submitted that the Office Action's rejections have been overcome and that this application is now in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance are, therefore, respectfully solicited.

If, however, the Examiner still believes that there are unresolved issues, he is invited to call applicant's attorney so that arrangements may be made to discuss and resolve any such issues.

Respectfully submitted,
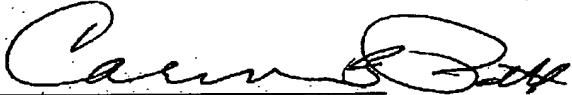
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